



Reducing Plastic Pollution

Support: LD 1532 *An Act to Eliminate Single-use Plastic Carry-out Bags*

Sponsored by: Rep. Holly Stover of Boothbay

Co-sponsored by: Sen. Sanborn of Cumberland, Rep. Babine of Scarborough, Rep. Brennan of Portland, Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach, Rep. Nicole Grohoski of Ellsworth, Rep. Marean of Hollis, Rep. McCrea of Fort Fairfield, Rep. McDonald of Stonington, Rep. Meyer of Eliot, and Rep. O'Neil of Saco

Now is the time for the entire state of Maine to stop using plastic shopping bags.

For more information, please contact Sarah Lakeman, (207) 430-0170 or slakeman@nrcm.org



**Natural Resources
Council of Maine**

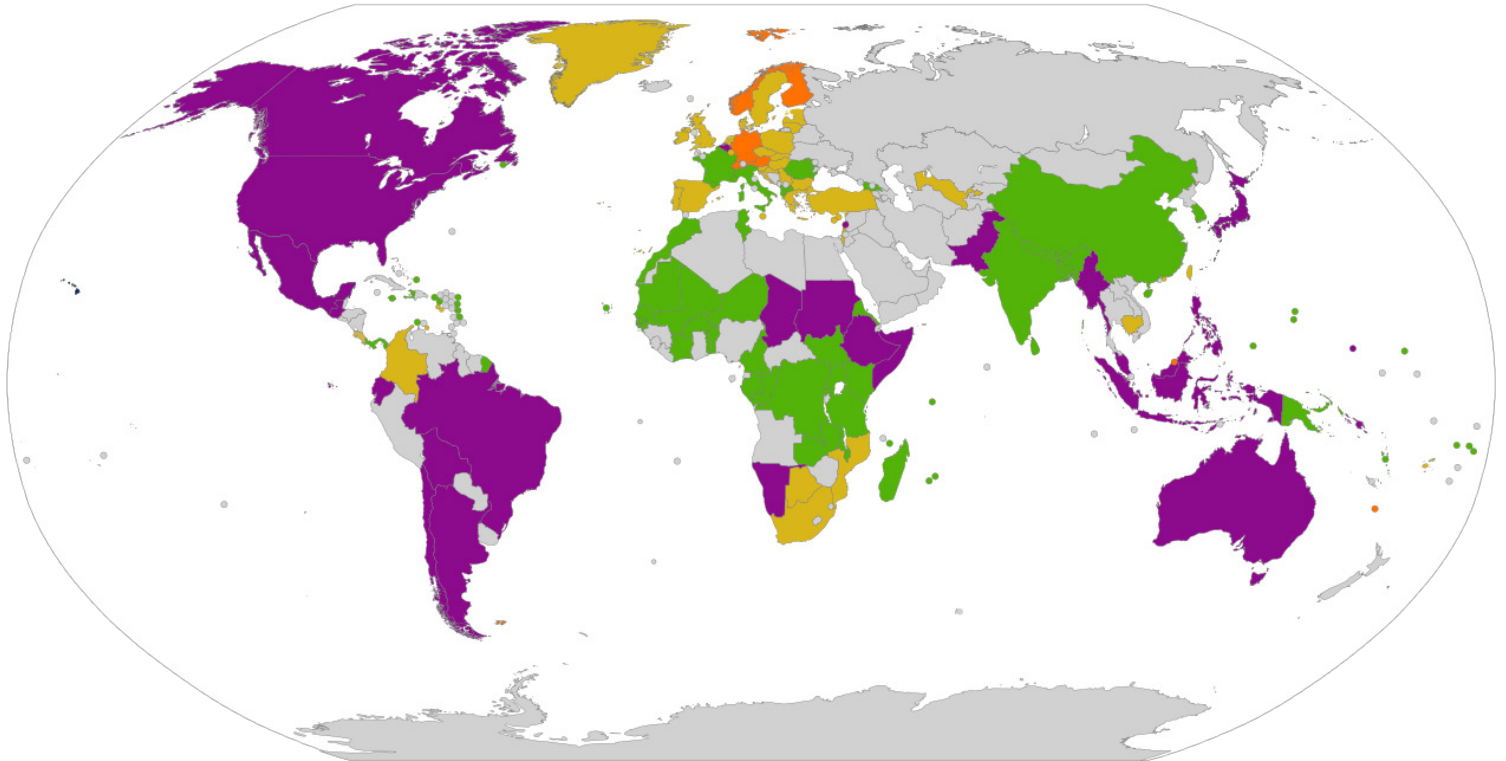
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Scientists say that by 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish, ton for ton. Globally, about 1 million plastic shopping bags are distributed per minute, and only 1% are recycled.

- Countless whales, sea turtles, and birds suffer slow, painful deaths and injuries from plastic bag pollution when they mistake the bags for food or get entangled. Plastic bags are the fourth most common type of plastic litter, based on a compilation of nationwide data sets.
- Plastic bags cannot be recycled with other recyclables. When bags are mistakenly placed in recycling bins, they can escape into the environment, jam recycling equipment, and contaminate the recycling stream, which is costly and wasteful.
- Plastic shopping bags have only been used since 1977. Today there are readily available reusable alternatives that cause far less damage to our environment. An incentive helps remind people to use reusable bags.
- Since 2014, 23 Maine towns—home to about 21% of the state's population—have passed ordinances to limit single-use plastic shopping bags.

LD 1532 would make Maine's single-use plastic shopping bag rules consistent, and help our state do its part to address the plastic pollution problem. The bill would:

- Prohibit the distribution of plastic shopping bags at the point of sale at all retail establishments in Maine.
- Place a five-cent fee on paper bags available at the point of sale at large retailers that sell food, to provide an incentive for shoppers to use reusable bags.
- Require paper bags be made of recycled content and ensure that they are recyclable.
- Require retailers to offer film recycling stations.



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Phase-out of Light-weight Plastic Bags Around the World

-  Plastic bags banned
-  A charge on some plastic bags
-  Voluntary charge
-  Partial charge or ban (city, state, or regional levels)

As of May 9, 2019, the following Maine towns, which comprise 21% of the state's population, have enacted bag ordinances:

Bath	Cape Elizabeth	Mount Desert	South Portland*
Belfast	Damariscotta	Newcastle	Southwest Harbor
Biddeford	Falmouth*	Portland*	Topsham*
Blue Hill	Freeport	Rockland	Waterville
Brunswick	Kennebunk	Rockport	York
Camden	Manchester	Saco	

* denotes town with a plastic bag fee rather than a plastic bag ban



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